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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT NO.

TOPIC 101st Mine Clearance Bn

EVALUATION

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PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT until 30 August 1949

DATE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED

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REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

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The following information on the 101st Mine Clearance Bn, HARSSEIGET (C 48/H 41), was obtained:

1. Quarters

Engineer Barracks of HARSSEIGET, on the bank of the Danube River

2. Officers

CO: Capt VARGA, officer of the postwar army, formerly a shell worker in CSIBEL (C 48/H 51), a Communist

Dpty CO: Capt NOVAK

Political Officer: Unidentified, successor to 1st Lt Arpad STISZABO who died.

3. Organization:

1st Co:

CO: 1st Lt Ferenc BURNAYI

The company consisted of two platoons which were organized in so-called patrols. The 1st Platoon had 17 patrols, each with a patrol leader and two men. The company was assigned to mine clearance and demolition work in the area east of the Danube River and in BUDAPEST.

2d Co:

CO: Capt SILVARI

The company had three platoons:

1st Platoon (mine clearance platoon)

2d Platoon (demolition platoon)

3rd Platoon (special platoon).

The platoons were organized into patrols. The company numbered

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Document No. 927

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Auth.: HR 70-2

Date: 00457R0004300230012-0

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about 90 troops. The company was committed in the area west of the Danube River. Troops of the company were collecting and destroying old ammunition in the area of Keszthely (Y 4/V 40), in Hegyeshalom (P 48/Y 06), and in Sopron (P 48/X 63) between early June and late August 1949.

4. Equipment

Mine detecting devices of Soviet, Hungarian and US make and Schaffler electrical demolition equipment were used.

5. Other Hungarian Units

a. Engineer unit in Harossziget, numbering about 150 young soldiers who had volunteered for enrollment at the Kossuth Academy.

b. Engineer unit in Baja (Y 6/S 27), quartered in the Engineer Barracks on Hajnold Street (August 1949).

c. Part of the motorized signal battalion from Pécs (Y 5/B 22) had been transferred to Budapest and part to the castle of Keszthely, according to signal troops from Keszthely.

6. Other Hungarian Officers

a. Maj.Gen. Daniel Georgenyi, allegedly Technical Inspector-General.

b. Officer of unknown high rank, named Szakasits.

7. Soviet Troops

No Soviet troops were seen in Baja where the reporting deserter stayed on furlough from 2 to 15 August 1949.

25X1 Comment:

a. The report confirms the Harossziget 101st Mine Clearance Bn, previously known as 1st Mine Clearance Bn. Component units of the battalion are constantly doing engineer work in continually changing areas.

b. Other units:

(1) Engineer unit in Harossziget: Possibly elements of an engineer battalion which was previously identified in Harossziget, but whose present designation is unknown.

(2) Engineer unit in Baja:

An independent engineer battalion has been known in Baja since late December 1948. The 1st Mtz Engr Bn, activated in Szentendre in March 1949, was to be transferred from Szentendre to Baja. It is not known whether the unit observed in Baja belongs to the independent engineer battalion or to the 1st Mtz Engr Bn. Should the unit be assigned to the 1st Mtz Engr Bn, the transfer of the battalion from Szentendre to Baja would be confirmed.

(3) The transfer of component units of the 1st Mtz Sig Bn from Pécs to Budapest was confirmed.

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